

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 32, 34-37 and 44 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-18 and 25-44 were examined. Claims 25-31, 33, and 38-43 have been cancelled by amendment.

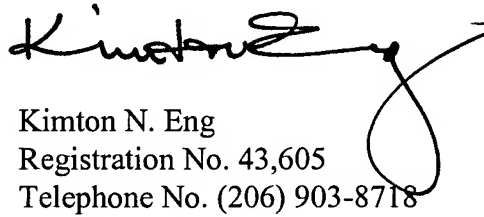
In the office action mailed December 19, 2005 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner rejected claims 32, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,843,816 to Liaw *et al.* (the "Liaw patent"). The Examiner further rejected claims 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Liaw patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,038 to Hashimoto *et al.* (the "Hashimoto patent") and rejected claims 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Liaw patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,320,975 to Cederbaum *et al.* (the "Cederbaum patent"). Claims 1-18 and 44 have been allowed and claims 33-37 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

As previously mentioned, claims 25-31, 33, and 38-43 have been cancelled. The Examiner's rejections of these claims are now moot.

Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 33, and consequently, claim 32 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 34-37, which depend from claim 32, are also in condition for allowance based on their dependency from allowable base claim 33. The cancellation of claims 25-31, 33, and 38-43 and amendments to claim 32 have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicants' belief that the subject matter of the cancelled and unamended claims is unpatentable, or that the Applicants have forfeited the subject matter of these claims. Moreover, Applicants have not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterizations of the cited references are accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicants have tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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